

FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT TURKEY POINTS UNITS 6&7 SITE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

Opposition to FPL Transmission Line Siting

- Florida Power and Light (FPL) proposes to install new high voltage transmission lines on a route along Pinecrest Parkway/US1, from 136th Street north to I-95 along the US1 corridor. The transmission lines would be over 85-105 feet high.
- US1 is the major gateway to downtown Miami from the south suburbs. FPL's plans are incompatible with Pinecrest's transportation and development plans for the US1 corridor. In addition, the oversized power lines would nullify the heavy beautification investment that all communities along this route, including Pinecrest, have made in the past decade.
- Siting of transmission lines in a municipality can pose safety and health issues for citizens. Many experts claim overhead transmission lines may be dangerous to the public due to the low frequency magnetic fields surrounding the lines.
- Due to South Florida's high proclivity to hurricanes, overhead transmission lines pose a serious danger to the public.
- The proposed route for the overhead transmission lines will destroy considerable property value from residents and businesses (\$1 billion estimated), while also negatively impacting quality of life and public health along the US1 Corridor.
- Nuclear energy is the most expensive form of energy one can install. FPL would spend \$55,000 to power each new residence with nuclear power. The cost of equivalent energy efficiency savings is about 1/4 that price. The cost of equivalent renewable power is half that price.
- Distributed renewable energy generation and energy efficiency savings are virtually free once the infrastructure is built, whereas TPN 6 & 7 will more than double the bills of ratepayers.
- Opposition to High Voltage transmission lines along US1 corridor is widespread, including among the South Florida Congressional Delegation.

Solution

- FPL should bury the lines underground and absorb the cost as a part of their construction costs, rather than demanding that communities such as Pinecrest pay that cost. FPL estimates it would cost \$13.3 - \$18.5 million **PER MILE** to bury these lines – a cost that should be shared by all FPL users in Florida since communities across the state are intended to benefit from FPL's facility expansion.
- FPL should be required to substantiate and justify their costs for burying the transmission lines, and ensure the costs are competitive compared to other similar providers.

- Underground lines, which provide greater transmission safety and reliability in hurricanes and other storms, and are less vulnerable to acts of terrorism, will serve the public health, safety and welfare of the community by maintaining the County's busiest thoroughfare, free from the post disaster relief related to tropical storms and hurricanes in South Florida that damage transmission lines above ground.
- The underground technology chosen must shield lines to a more prudent level of safety indicated by the biomedical literature that has been published since the FL-Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) guidelines were established over a decade ago.

Legal Changes Required

- Under current law, electric companies are allowed to install extremely large poles to accommodate transmission lines as long as the lines are less than 15 miles in length and do not cross a county line without seeking certification from the Public Service Commission (PSC) or the DEP; therefore local governments have been denied the ability to challenge the siting of transmission lines if the lines are less than 15 miles in length and do not cross a county line.
- Under current law, the entire burden rests with the municipality that proposes an alternative route, leaving the utility significant discretion to propose unacceptable routes without having to explore more acceptable, alternative routes.
- The Florida legislature should amend current provisions of Section 403.524 to require that all transmission line sitings within the boundaries of a municipality must be presented to the PSC and DEP, and municipalities given an opportunity to be heard in the process; all electric utilities should be required to seek certification for all transmission lines, without exception.
- Municipalities should have the right to file civil litigation to challenge the siting of transmission lines under certain conditions and the option to propose alternative routes; the legal burden should be on the utility to demonstrate why an alternative route is not acceptable.
- Electric utilities should be required to notify municipalities of proposed sites for transmission lines and provide full disclosure of the method utilized to determine the route of transmission lines and efforts taken to minimize the impact on the affected municipality.
- The PSC should be empowered to hear disputes between electric utilities and municipalities regarding transmission line routes.

Pinecrest Actions

- The Village of Pinecrest petitioned the DEP to suspend FPL's site certification application (SCA) for Turkey Point Units 6 and 7 with regard to placing overhead high voltage transmission lines on US1, however, "the legislature has not granted DEP the authority to unilaterally suspend a SCA."
- Pinecrest will propose an alternate transmission line corridor in May 2011.
- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board recently concluded that Pinecrest has standing to participate as an interested local governmental body during hearings/meetings to expand power at Turkey Point.